

Jesus was baptized by John  
in the Jordan

MARK 1:9



# **Baptism of Our Lord**

## **January 7, 2024**

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

Music                                      “Holy Water”  
Composed by, Roger Peterson

## **The Gathering**

### \*Opening Hymn

“The First Noel”                      Red #300

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winters night that was so deep.

### **REFRAIN**

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw ... a star  
Shining in the east ... beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave... great light,  
And ... so it continued both day ... and night .

### **REFRAIN**

And by the light of that ... same star  
Three Wise Men came... from country far;  
To seek for a king was their ... intent,  
And to follow the star... wherever it went. REFRAIN

This star drew near to the ... northwest,  
O'er ... Bethlehem ... it took ... its rest;  
And there it ... did both stop ... and stay  
Right ... over the place where Jesus lay. REFRAIN

\*Greeting

P: The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ  
and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* # 257 vs. 1 - 2

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

REFRAIN

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
Teach us your will and guide our way. REFRAIN

Hymn of Praise

*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

#270 vs 1 & 3

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

REFRAIN

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth

REFRAIN

\*Prayer of the Day

P: May God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us Pray.

Celebrate, Page 1

**The Word of God**

First Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Acts 19:1-7

Celebrate pg. 3

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Gospel Acclamation

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

#289 vs. 1

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains

*G l o ——— r I a . . . in excelsis Deo*

*G l o ——— r i a . . . in excelsis Deo*

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Mark, the 1st Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O God.**

\*Gospel Reading

Mark 1:4-11

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

The Prayers of the Church    Celebrate, Page 4

## The Communion Meal

### \*Passing of the Peace

P:        May the peace of God be with you always.

C:        **And also with you.**

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of  
the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Music                      "Down to the River to Pray"  
                                composed by African American slave  
                                ("The Good Way") Appalachian, southern Gospel

Offertory

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Red #283 vs. 1

O come, all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant

O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of angels

*REFRAIN*

O come, let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him  
Christ the Lord

Offering Prayer

P: Savior of the nations, come.  
Make your home here in us.  
Feed us with your love,  
So that our faith shines ever new  
And our lives reveal your light.

**C: Amen**

\*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....

\*Words of Institution

\*Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today, our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
Now and forever. Amen**

**P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.  
Share in the feast of salvation.**

*(You may be seated)*

Holy Communion

*Guests: You are welcome to come forward to receive  
Communion as part of this church family! The wine is red. The grape  
juice is white. Children are always welcome to come forward and  
receive a special blessing if they have never communed before.*

Lamb of God                      "Love Has Come"                      Red #292 vs. 1 & 3

**Love has come a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!**

**Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us,  
Hear how their song of joy arises:**



Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Communion Hymn      “*What Child Is This*”      Red #296

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

## **The Sending**

\*Communion Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
Strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

\*Prayer after Communion

P: God for whom we wait,  
You come to us  
In the broken bread and the cup we share.  
Make us ready always  
To welcome Christ into our hearts,  
And send us forth to be your people in the world,  
Announcing your coming among us  
In Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*Blessing

P: May God direct your ways in peace,  
Make you abound in love for one another and for all,  
And strengthen your hearts  
as we wait for the coming of Christ  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

*"Joy To The World"*      Red #267

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart, prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing!

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods  
Rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love.  
And wonders, wonders of His love!

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music

“Lift up your Heads”  
by, Zebun Highben, 1979



Flowers — Sign up to dedicate to loved ones  
Reader — Elke Spires  
Coffee Host — Rebecca Wickham



## Prayer Concerns

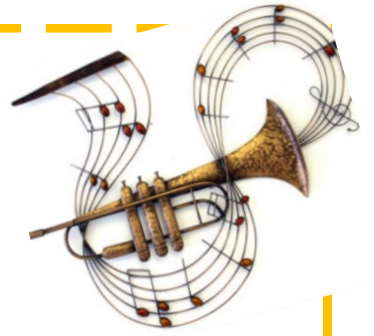
**SHORT TERM:** Anne Rice, Cheryl Davis, Rosie, The Webber Family, Janet, Sue, Lindsay Rosenberg, Middle East Peace, Maria, Cody Turner, Jan, Jacque N. Diane Strong, Family of Jean Patterson, San Diego families of Nancy & Sam, Renee, Brandon, Tom Dawson, Rena Brown, James, Tina, Lurline Moore, Keith, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, James Boudreau, Alvarado family, Dustin, Eric Utto-

Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Corcoran family, Keith, Mike Homer, Sam, Atlas, Tony, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, Amy Wimmer, Gray, Hailey, Jesse, Joyce, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Kathy, Joel Hurttgam, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Genell Csik, Paul Cunningham, Paul Paustian, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.

**LONG TERM:** Biergiel—Colclough family, April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Joyce, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

# Music at St. Stephen's

## Christmas is here!



Join the Music Team 2024! Hey friends, there is music in the air, can't you just feel those harmonic progression and intervals, bursting all around you. We all like music, and appreciate our gifts. Why not share with our church family and join the music team? If you teach an instrument or voice, please let me know. There is always room for more celebration through music.

*It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness & thus open doors of JOY*

All That Brass! Thank you players: Rawly Capone, Anthony Plaza, and Adonay Gonzalez.

Good News Singers (GNS) will sing for us during Advent. Thank you Janet, Tina, Bill, Margaret, Kirstin, Jeanette & Pr. Jim.

Please donate to the "Musicians Fund" to enhance our worship together. Yours in Christ & Mission, Gary.

~ PEACE THROUGH LOVE ~



## Poinsettias

Given in honor or in memory of loved ones. You may take your plant home to enjoy. Thank you for the beautiful decore & supporting our church ministries.





## The Season of Giving

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported St. Stephen's this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead.

If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions.

For more info. contact Janet Slay 475-5668

Your 2024 Offering envelopes are here, for you to take home.

**"God uses money to confirm direction."**

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own insight.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make your paths straight."*

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

# Upcoming Events:

## January Benevolence Offering Community Bridges

Jan. 9	Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
Jan. 11	- Coffee & Chat 10 am Senior Housing With MMRR Circle and pillowcase delivery - Valentine making at 10:30 am in fireside room
Jan. 11	Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm
Jan. 12	Preschool chapel 10:15 am
Jan. 12	Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
Jan. 12	A.A. 7:00 pm
Jan. 17	Women’s Café Group 6:00 pm
Jan. 22	NL Deadline NOON
Jan. 23	Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am
Jan. 27	COPA Accountability Assembly 3:00 Green Acres Elementary school. Come learn which candidates will work with COPA.
Jan. 28	Annual Congregational Meeting Following 10 am worship
Jan. 30	NL Collating 2:00 pm
Feb. 4	Scout Sunday

Worship livestream online at [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)

Recorded for you to view anytime.

Please participate by having your worship bulletin and Celebrate ready

Zoom Bible Studies with Pastor Jim on Thursdays 11am & 7:30pm.

Check your email on Wednesday for the link to the Zoom meeting.

### Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship  
God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith,  
serve others with acceptance and love,  
invite people to share the joy of the spirit.

### Reconciling in Christ

"We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.  
We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race  
or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity,  
gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or  
mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances,  
or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ."

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Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's  
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp  
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp  
Church Musician: Gary Roberts  
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp  
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens  
Custodian: John Hopping  
Videographers: Kent Madsen, Barb Rice, Jay Johnston

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